

Morere Hot Springs.—The report of the caretaker of this popular East Coast resort discloses a considerable increase during the year of visitors and revenue.

The various buildings have been maintained in excellent order and have also been renovated and repainted. The tracks and walks through the bush of the reserve have been extended and improved.

Inadequacy of accommodation, both hotel and motor-camp facilities, at this resort are emphasized. It is undoubted that if extensions could be provided many visitors would make a longer stop-over at this relatively small but very attractive health resort.

The Department's reserve has been efficiently patrolled and steps have been taken to prevent the depredations of deer and goats, to preserve the natural beauties and the bird life.

(ii) HOTELS, ETC.

Waitomo Caves.—There has been a very marked improvement in business at this resort, and revenue has increased by £7,463 to £15,399 during the year in review. Thirteen thousand five hundred people visited the caves. It is estimated that about 35 per cent. of the total visitors represents ex-servicemen on leave.

With the improvement in the petrol and tire position there has been a considerable amount of traffic from Auckland and nearby districts by private car, but when controls are lifted a substantial increase in the numbers of touring motorists is expected.

Extra domestic staff secured before the season commenced made possible the opening-up of rooms in the wooden portion of the hotel, but, notwithstanding this, it has not been possible to accommodate all guests offering during holiday periods and on several week-ends.

Bus tours from Auckland have operated each week-end, and during the summer excursion parties of twenty have arrived from that city on an average of twice a week. In addition, there have been special excursions from Wellington, Wanganui, and Dunedin, while several large parties have made day trips from Hamilton to inspect the caves.

No major works have been undertaken during the year, and practically all maintenance necessary has been carried out by local staff. The matter of improving the lighting in the caves is now under investigation.

Gardens, hotel farm, and reserves have been kept in good order, and are, in fact, in better condition than they have been for several years.

Lake House, Waikaremoana.—This house, since its reopening on 1st December, has been very well patronized, with a resultant increase in revenue.

The dry summer spell caused the lake-level to recede below any previous records. This has had serious results as regards the source of water for the nearby hydro-electric-power stations. From a sightseeing angle, the low level also has serious implications, and difficulty was experienced in landing launch parties at Aniwhiwa Falls en route to Lake Waikare-iti.

Several new huts have been erected at the camping-ground, and all huts have been in use over the holiday periods.

Maintenance work was carried out during the winter months, and included the reconditioning and repair of all tracks and outbuildings.

Tokaanu.—In view of the impending transfer of this hotel to a new site, no major reconstruction work has been undertaken. Maintenance work on plant and buildings has been carried out as required, and a good service has been provided for the travelling public and for visiting sportsmen.